In re Application of Mayers et al.
Application Ser. No. 10/789,000
Response to Office Action dated December 16, 2009
Amendment dated March 19, 2010

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 1. The remaining claims read as follows:

1.   (Currently Amended) An abuse-resistant, cast acoustical ceiling tile having a core made from a starch gel and mineral wool fiber composition with the starch gel ranging from 75 to 83 weight percent of the core composition and the mineral wool fibers ranging from 17 to 25 weight percent of the core composition, wherein a front surface of the tile includes aggregate particles pressed into said surface prior to drying of the composition, said aggregate particles have an average particle mean diameter of at least about 1,000 microns and wherein said starch gel comprises at least about 82.7 weight % water.

2.   (Original) The ceiling tile of claim 1 wherein the aggregate particles are selected from the group consisting of calcium carbonate, crushed marble, sand, clay, perlite, vermiculite, crushed stone and glass.

3.   (Original) The ceiling tile of claim 2 wherein the aggregate particles are calcium carbonate.

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4.   (Original) The ceiling tile of claim 3 wherein the aggregate particles have an average particle mean diameter ranging from about 1,000 microns to about 3,000 microns.

5.   (Original) The ceiling tile of claim 3 wherein the aggregate particles have an average particle mean diameter ranging from about 1,400 microns to about 2,500 microns.

6.   (Original) The ceiling tile of claim 1 which has a noise reduction coefficient (NRC) value of at least about 0.50.

7.   (Original) The ceiling tile of claim 2 which has a noise reduction coefficient (NRC) value of at least about 0.50.

8.   (Original) The ceiling tile of claim 3 which has a noise reduction coefficient (NRC) value of at least about 0.50.

9.   (Original) The ceiling tile of claim 4 which has a noise reduction coefficient (NRC) value of at least about 0.50.

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10 – 14. (Canceled)

15.   (Previously Presented)   The ceiling tile of claim 1 wherein the

aggregate is pressed using a roller.

16.   (Previously Presented)   The ceiling tile of claim 1 wherein the

aggregate is pressed using a plate.